

# *a community called ...*

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ONE HUNDRED  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ON THE  
HISTORY, POLITY, AND USAGES  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BY  
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# ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ON THE

## History, Polity, and Usages

OF THE

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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### I.

#### EARLY METHODISM.

1. Who was the founder of Methodism?  
John Wesley.
2. Who were his parents?  
Samuel and Susannah Wesley, persons  
of great piety and scholarship.
3. Where and when was he born?  
In Epworth, England, June 28, 1703.
4. What impressive incident occurred in  
his early childhood?  
He barely escaped death by fire when  
the rectory was burned.
5. Where was he educated?  
At home, by his mother ; in the Charter

House School, in London; and in  
Christ Church College, Oxford.

6. In what Church was he reared?  
In the Church of England, in which his  
father was an able minister.
7. When was he ordained?  
In 1725, by Bishop Potter.
8. Where did he go as a missionary?  
To Georgia, North America, in 1735.
9. When did he return?  
In 1737.
10. Did he ever visit America again?  
No.
11. Who helped him in his religious life?  
The Moravians.
12. In what year did Wesley date his conversion?  
In 1738.
13. Where did Methodism begin?  
In Oxford University, England.
14. In what year was the first society formed?  
In 1738, in London, England.
15. Why were the members called Methodists?  
The name was applied to them in de-

rision because of their serious deportment and method in life.

16. Where and when was the first chapel built?

In Bristol, in 1739.

17. What was the first chapel in London called?

The Foundry.

18. Why was it so called?

The building converted into a chapel had been used as a foundry for casting cannon.

19. Did Methodism prevail to any great extent in Mr. Wesley's day?

It spread wherever the English language was spoken.

20. When did Mr. Wesley die?

He died in London, March 2, 1791, aged 88.

21. What were his last words?

Among his last words were these: "The best of all is, God is with us."

22. Who were Mr. Wesley's first great helpers?

Charles Wesley, John Fletcher, and George Whitefield.

23. What were they ?  
Clergymen of the Church of England.
24. Who were the first lay preachers ?  
John Cennick and Thomas Maxfield.
25. Who was the great poet of Methodism ?  
Charles Wesley.
26. Who was the great theologian ?  
John Fletcher.
27. Who was the great preacher ?  
George Whitefield.
28. Who was the organizer and promoter  
of the early missions of Methodism ?  
Thomas Coke, LL.D.

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## II.

### METHODISM IN THE COLONIES.

29. Who brought Methodism to America ?  
Philip Embury, Barbara Heck, and  
Robert Strawbridge, in 1766.
30. How was it disseminated here ?  
Philip Embury, Robert Strawbridge,  
local preachers from Ireland, preached  
its doctrines and organized societies.
31. In what places ?  
In New York city and in Maryland.

32. What British soldier was a great help in this work?

Captain Thomas Webb.

33. Who were the first missionaries sent from England to help the societies in America?

Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor.

34. Who came a little later?

Francis Asbury and Richard Wright.

35. Did Methodism rapidly increase?

It had a rapid and steady growth in all parts of the land.

36. Were American Methodists subordinate to Mr. Wesley?

They acknowledged him as their head and submitted to his direction.

37. What severed American from English Methodism?

The Revolution and the independence of the Colonies.

38. What became of the English preachers who were sent to America by John Wesley?

They all returned to England except Francis Asbury.

## III.

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

39. What form of Church government did Mr. Wesley deem best for his societies in America?

The episcopal.

40. What was the origin of the Methodist Episcopacy?

Mr. Wesley consecrated Thomas Coke, LL.D., superintendent or bishop of the Methodist societies in America and sent him here in 1784.

41. Who were ordained elders and sent as his assistants?

Thomas Vasey and Richard Whatcoat.

42. Where and when was the Methodist Episcopal Church organized?

At a General Conference in Baltimore, in December, 1784.

43. Did the preachers receive Dr. Coke as their bishop?

They did by a unanimous vote of the Conference.

44. Who was elected and consecrated bishop at that time?

Francis Asbury.



45. What is peculiar in our method of ministerial supply?

The itinerancy.

46. What is the itinerancy?

It is the opposite of a settled pastorate; the system by which Methodist pastors are changed at stated periods.

47. How many orders have we in the ministry?

Two; deacons and elders.

48. How many offices?

Three; that of pastor, presiding elder and bishop.

49. What does the word "bishop" mean?

Overseer or superintendent.

50. How are bishops constituted?

They are elected by the General Conference and consecrated by the bishops and elders.

51. What are the duties of a bishop?

Chiefly, to travel through the connection, supervise the work, appoint the time of the Annual Conferences, preside at them, and fix the appointments of the preachers.

52. What are the duties of a presiding elder?

Chiefly, to preside at Quarterly Conferences, have an oversight of the work, and act as adviser of the bishop in making the appointments.

53. What are the duties of a pastor?

Chiefly, to preach the word, administer the sacraments, and watch over his flock.

54. What is a missionary bishop?

A bishop whose episcopal powers are restricted to the foreign mission field for which he was elected and consecrated.

55. How long can a pastor remain in one charge?

Five years.

56. How long can a presiding elder remain on one district?

Six years.

57. How long can a bishop hold his office?

For life.

58. How do we designate the relation of the preachers to the Conferences?

As effective, supernumerary, or superannuated.

59. What is an effective relation ?  
One in which the preacher takes all the labor and responsibilities of a charge.
60. What is a supernumerary relation ?  
One held temporarily by a preacher whose health is impaired, who is not able to do full work.
61. What is a superannuated relation ?  
A relation held by those preachers who, through age, infirmity, or affliction are permanently disabled for ministerial labors, but who remain members of the Annual Conference.
62. What is peculiar about our ministry ?  
Lay preachers and exhorters.
63. What is a lay or local preacher ?  
One who is licensed to preach by a Quarterly Conference but is not a member of an Annual Conference.
64. Are they eligible to ordination ?  
They are ; after preaching four years they may be ordained deacons ; after four years more, elders.
65. Who are laymen ?  
All members of the Church who are not members of an Annual Conference.

## IV.

## CONFERENCES.

66. What are the several judicatories of Methodism called?  
Conferences.
67. How many are there in the Methodist Episcopal Church?  
Six, namely: General, Annual, Quarterly, District, Electoral, and Judicial Conferences.
68. What is the General Conference?  
The legislative body of the Church, consisting of ministerial and lay delegates.
69. When does it meet?  
Once in four years, on the first day of May.
70. What is an Annual Conference?  
A body consisting of all itinerant ministers within certain defined boundaries, who meet for deliberation and action.
71. Where and when was the first Annual Conference held in America?  
In Philadelphia, in 1773.

72. How are the boundaries of an Annual Conference determined ?

By vote of the General Conference.

73. What is the principal work of an Annual Conference ?

To hear reports, examine the characters of its members, vote on the admission of candidates, and receive the appointments from the bishop.

74. What is a Quarterly Conference ?

A body composed of all the officers of a charge, which meets Quarterly and is presided over by the presiding elder, an elder whom he appoints, or the pastor.

75. What are its duties ?

It has supervision of, and reviews all, the temporal and spiritual affairs of the charge. It licenses local preachers and recommends them to the Annual Conference for admission.

76. What is a District Conference ?

It is composed of traveling and local preachers, exhorters, district stewards, class-leaders, and Sunday-school superintendents of the district.

77. Who presides over it ?  
A bishop or presiding elder.
78. Are they general in the Church ?  
No ; whether there shall be one or not is determined by a vote of the Quarterly Conferences of the district.
79. What is an Electoral Conference ?  
It is composed of one layman sent by each Quarterly Conference, twenty-five years old and upward, who has been a full member of the Church five consecutive years preceding.
80. Where does it meet ?  
At the place of the Annual Conference.
81. When does it meet ?  
Once in four years, on the third day of the session of the Annual Conference which immediately precedes the General Conference.
82. What are its duties ?  
To elect lay delegates to the ensuing General Conference.
83. How many ?  
Two, except where the Annual Conference has but one ministerial dele-

gate; then the Electoral Conference has but one.

84. What is a Judicial Conference?

It is a court of appeal for ministers tried and convicted by an Annual Conference, and a court for the trial of a bishop.

85. How is it constituted?

It is composed of seven elders from each of three contiguous Annual Conferences, presided over by a bishop.

86. How are these elders selected?

They are selected by each Annual Conference, and are known as "Triers of Appeals." They never meet unless some case of trial or appeal demands it.

87. How is it constituted for the trial of a bishop?

It is composed of seven elders or "Triers of Appeals" from each of five contiguous Annual Conferences, presided over by a bishop. The bishop has an appeal to the General Conference.

## V.

## MEETINGS, RULES, ARTICLES.

88. What meetings are peculiar to Methodism?

Class-meetings and love-feasts.

89. What is a class-meeting?

A meeting of members of the Church for instruction and fellowship. The exercises are singing, prayer, reading the Scriptures, and the relation of Christian experience.

90. What is a love-feast?

A meeting in which all eat and drink together in token of Christian love. The religious exercises are singing, prayer, and Christian testimony.

91. What are the "General Rules?"

A condensed statement of the elements of Christian life and deportment.

92. Why are they important in Methodism?

Because continuance in the Methodist Episcopal Church is conditioned on their observance.

93. Where are they found?

In the Book of Discipline.



94. By whom were they written ?  
By John and Charles Wesley, in 1743.
95. What are the "Articles of Religion ?"  
A condensed statement of the doctrines held by the Methodist Episcopal Church.
96. How many are there ?  
Twenty-five.
97. How did we obtain them ?  
They were abridged and changed from the thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England by Mr. Wesley.
98. What made them authoritative in the Methodist Episcopal Church ?  
They were adopted by the Church at its organization.
99. Where are they found ?  
In the Book of Discipline.
100. Have all our members indorsed the "General Rules" and "Articles of Religion ?"  
They did so when admitted to full membership, and promised to be cheerfully governed by them.